

Patent claims

1. Method for validating fault symptoms appearing at driver outputs (10), having the steps:

- record a symptom, present at a driver output (10), and classify the symptom into one of several classes of different symptoms by means of a symptom recognition unit (12),
- by means of a symptom validation unit (14), assign to the symptom an item of symptom validation data which depends on the classification,
- report the classification, or an item of reporting data assigned to the classification and
- report the item of symptom validation data.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that for the purpose of classifying a symptom at least four classes are available, whereby

- an electrical fault which is unambiguously identifiable is classified as a symptom in class 1,
- an electrical fault which is not unambiguously identifiable is classified as a symptom in class 2,
- a symptom is classified as belonging to class 3 if it can be unambiguously identified that no electrical fault is present, and

- a symptom is classified as belonging to class 4 if no electrical fault is present, but this cannot be unambiguously identified.

3. Method according to claim 2,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 1, the item of validation data "valid" is assigned to the fault symptom and the classification is reported together with the item of validation data.

4. Method according to claim 2 or 3,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 3 the item of validation data "valid" is assigned to the fault symptom and the classification is reported together with the item of validation data.

5. Method according to one of the claims 2 to 4,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 2 or class 4 the item of validation data "invalid" is assigned to the fault symptom and a classification as class 3 is reported together with the item of validation data.

6. Method according to one of the claims 2 to 5,  
characterized in that  
the possibility exists, when the item of validation data is "invalid", for getting the symptom validation unit (14) to subject the driver output (10) concerned to an influence in order to get at additional data about the fault symptom concerned.

7. System for validating fault symptoms appearing at driver outputs (10), with a final stage (18) and a symptom reporting unit (20) which is assigned to the final stage (18), where

- the final stage (18) of the symptom recognition unit (12) has a symptom validation unit (14) and a symptom output unit (16),
- by means of the symptom recognition unit (12) symptoms present at a driver output (10) can be recorded and each classified into one of several classes of different symptoms,
- by means of the symptom validation unit (14) an item of symptom validation data which depends on the classification can be assigned to a symptom,
- by means of the system output unit (16) the classification and the item of validation data can be communicated to the symptom reporting unit (20) and
- the classification or an item of reporting data assigned to the classification, as applicable, and the item of symptom validation data are reported by the symptom reporting unit (20).

8. System according to claim 7,  
characterized in that  
for the purpose of classifying a symptom at least four classes  
are available, whereby

- an electrical fault which is unambiguously identifiable is classified as a symptom in class 1,

- an electrical fault which is not unambiguously identifiable is classified as a symptom in class 2,
- a symptom is classified as belonging to class 3 if it can be unambiguously identified that no electrical fault is present, and
- a symptom is classified as belonging to class 4 if no electrical fault is present, but this cannot be unambiguously identified.

9. System according to claim 8,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 1, the item of validation data "valid" is assigned to the fault symptom and the classification is reported together with the item of validation data.

10. System according to claim 8 or 9,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 3 the item of validation data "valid" is assigned to the fault symptom and the classification is reported together with the item of validation data.

11. System according to one of the claims 8 to 10,  
characterized in that  
in the case where a fault symptom is classified as belonging to class 2 or class 4 the item of validation data "invalid" is assigned to the fault symptom and a classification as class 3 is reported together with the item of validation data.

12. System according to one of the claims 8 to 11,

characterized in that  
the possibility exists, when the item of validation data is  
"invalid", for getting the symptom validation unit (14) to  
subject the driver output (10) concerned to an influence in  
order to get at additional data about the fault symptom con-  
cerned.